

## Burke, Ruth A

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**From:** Susan Cutting <susancutting@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2020 1:24 PM  
**To:** DEP, Nordic Aqua Farms  
**Subject:** Public Testimony re: NAF

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Susan Cutting's Testimony for 2/11/20 DEP Public Hearing

I strongly oppose Nordic Aquafarm's application to permit the construction of this facility for many reasons—here are 3 among them.

**1) The health of the bay.** Releasing 7.7 million gallons of chemically treated wastewater with its 1600 lbs. of nitrogen merely 2/3 of a mile from the shore, into the bay where it is only 26 feet deep will likely result in a continual plume of 100 million gallons of this effluent that is 5-30 degrees warmer than the bay. I am not a scientist, but I can't see how that wouldn't change the ecosystem of that area of our bay. I am out on the bay regularly, and in recent years have seen more fish and seal activity than ever before—our bay is finally recovering from the decades of impact from the chicken industries. It is unthinkable to allow it to be harmed again by this.

*And.. would you want to swim in that plume of wastewater? Would you want your children to swim in it?*

**2) The ecosystems of those 34 acres of secondary growth mature forest including 10 wetlands and bordering the Little River Trail.** I have walked that trail many, many times with my family and friends. We have seen the river otter slides, listened to the birds and frogs and treasured this special natural area. The idea of taking down that forest, removing 15 to 48 feet of soil (approximately 215,000 cubic yards) to build this factory is literally obliterating the natural environment and taking this experience away from our community.

*If they need to remove not only the trees, plants, animals but a huge amount the soil itself in order to build this--destroying wetlands, a popular nature trail and reservoir—it is not is not an appropriate site for the facility.*

**3) Climate responsibility.** We can't afford to be excluding carbon footprint from the decision-making process any longer. This factory would produce between 550,000 and 759,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents into the atmosphere every year—that is like adding 14,000 to 18,000 households to Belfast or adding 120,000 to 165,000 cars to the roads. It would increase Belfast's carbon footprint between 5 and 7 times what it is now. This is beyond irresponsible. It is outright wrong. For our children and the planet.

There is a lot that is wrong about this proposed facility, but what it comes down to is:

a) the scale of this project is way too big. With this huge scale in production, the impact from anything that could go wrong is also at that huge scale. *And this is too great of a risk for our bay and our community.*

b) the model is inappropriate in this day of climate change. We do need to re-think how to produce more food, as climate change continues to rage, but carbon-intensive \$12/lbs. farmed salmon is not the answer.

***It is well beyond time for climate impact to be a priority in assessing any development project or plan.***

Susan Cutting  
97 Patterson Hill Rd.  
Belfast, ME